

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Ready for Parade of Lights in Rockwood

A picture of a decorated combine in an agricultural magazine led to what has become a welcome winter tradition in Rockwood – the Farmers' Parade of Lights.

Organizers – a group of Eramosa residents who call themselves the March Blahs Group – anticipate 12,000 to 15,000 people will line the parade route on December 9 for the annual parade of farm equipment, festooned with lights and decorations, that leads Santa Claus through the village to kick off the holiday season.

Parade spokesman Murray Swanston, who saw the decorated farm equipment photo more than 18 years ago, said the annual event is good for the village.

"It's one of the biggest days of the year and it's a lot of fun for everyone," Swanston said on Sunday.

He said they rely on Guelph/Eramosa Township for the necessary approvals from the Coun-

ty, police and fire officials to close roads and arrange insurance for the parade. Swanston said a one-hour time limit constrains them to accepting 23 or 24 entries.

The Parade of Lights begins at 7 p.m. – traditionally led by decorated equipment from Sharpe's Farm – when participants set out from a farmer's field on the Fourth Line, north of the OPP station.

"We come out from the field and head south to the main intersection at Alma Street, and head west to the Fourth Line and return to the original farm, a route of 2.8-kilometres," he said, adding they travel at 2.8 km/h, a good walking pace.

When asked about past favourites, Swanston singled out an Acton group – Jamie Wieck and friends – who he said always put a lot of thought and effort into their entry. He said Woodrill Farms also traditionally enters a sprayer, and its staff walk the pa-

rade route in costume, handing out candy canes.

Swanston's entry in the parade is a wagon that carries the County Clickin' Cloggers, a dance group from Elora that taps dances on the open wagon, and he expects there will also be a square dance group, and possibly a live band.

Firefighters from Eramosa, Puslinch and Erin volunteer their time to walk beside any wide floats to ensure safety, and the Rockwood Lions Club handles parking in the Fourth Line field, and serves hot chocolate to the crowd.

Swanston said the only parade item out of their control is the weather, and while they've never had to cancel a parade because of bad weather, last year was very cold and windy, which kept some people at home.

He said the best spot to watch the parade is at the Fourth Line where there's no interference from street lights.



ROOTS ROCK: The Rockwood band Hometown Roots takes to the stage this weekend in Guelph to compete in a five-band contest run by a Hamilton radio station. – Submitted photo

Hometown Roots rock

Hometown Roots – four Rockwood teens who blend rock and electric folk music – take to a Guelph stage Saturday (November 27), one of five bands attempting to impress judges in a contest

sponsored by a Hamilton radio station.

The band was a hit at Acton's Big Daddy Festival and at the Georgetown Fall Fair, and hopes a strong performance at the Squirrel Tooth Alice's

bar and grill will propel it to the quarter-finals of the competition. Check out their sound at www.myspace.com/hometownroots-band

For information call 519-830-7890.

Caution - Deer Crossing

This is the time of the year when deer seem to be everywhere. Wellington OPP warn drivers to be on the look out for wild animals.

Deer and car crashes can be disastrous, which could cause minor to major injuries as well as extensive property damage.

Be aware and be alert.

- If you see wildlife near the road, slow down, sound your horn, and pass carefully, as their movements are unpredictable.

- Use high beams at night, where possible,

and watch for the glowing eyes of animals.

- Never swerve suddenly as you could lose control of your vehicle, greatly increasing your chance of a collision.

- If a wild animal is crossing the road ahead, brake firmly if possible – never assume the animal will move out of the way.

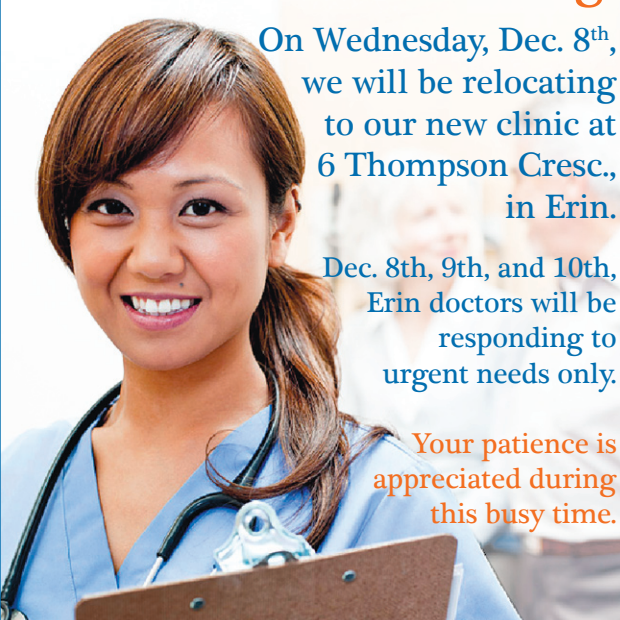
- Stop as safely as possible if a wild animal is crossing the road. Often times, if one animal crosses the road, others may follow.

- Drive defensively. This is your best tool in avoiding collisions whether it's with a wild animal or otherwise.

Most wild animal collisions occur during the months of October to December, due to the fall mating and migration season. Peak times for deer collisions are usually between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., and 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., but could happen at other times of the day and night as well.

Slow Down. Drive with caution.

The Erin Clinic Is Moving!



On Wednesday, Dec. 8th, we will be relocating to our new clinic at 6 Thompson Cresc., in Erin.

Dec. 8th, 9th, and 10th, Erin doctors will be responding to urgent needs only.

Your patience is appreciated during this busy time.

For an urgent appointment on any of these days, please call our Rockwood Clinic at 519-856-4611.

Watch our web site for updates. www.ewfht.ca



Looking forward to seeing you in our new digs!

East Wellington Family Health Team

Watch for busses

On any given weekday throughout the County of Wellington, most motorists have seen a chrome yellow school buses driving up and down all roadways, full of eager young students.

Wellington OPP reminds motorists and all drivers of the need for caution when around school buses. School students getting on and off of the buses rely on all drivers to obey the rules of the road, and expect when they cross the roadway, the driver will give them the right of way that the law states.

The Highway Traffic Act provides direction that motorists travelling in both directions must stop when ap-

proaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing. A stop arm will swing out while passengers are boarding or leaving the bus. Once all passengers have boarded, the STOP arm will fold away. Do not start moving until the red lights have stopped flashing and the bus begins to move.

The fine for disobeying this traffic law is \$490 and six demerit points. This charge can be applied to either the driver or the registered owner of the motor vehicle.

Please help keep our children safe. Slow down and be prepared to stop when you spot a school bus.

Liberal debt

The McGuinty government continues to spend too much money, with no serious plan to pay down the provincial debt and deficit, said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

"Even after imposing countless new taxes and fees, the deficit still stands at a near-record high," Arnott said after the government presented its Fall Economic Update. "They should have called it their 'Uneconomic Update.'"

The Minister of Finance announced that this year's deficit projection stands at a colossal \$18.7-billion-down slightly from last year's stratospheric high of \$19.3 billion.

Just as concerning to Arnott is the Liberals' re-

cord on the debt. Premier McGuinty is on track to double the provincial debt by 2012, from its level in 2003 when he first took office.

PC Leader Tim Hudak said the Liberal government has already increased spending during its term of office by 70 percent, even though the Gross Domestic Product grew at just 8.8 percent.

Today the Government of Ontario is borrowing more than \$2 million an hour, every hour of every day.

"This mountain of additional debt means our children and grandchildren will pay even higher taxes than we do today, and likely receive less in the way of government services," Arnott said.